

**LINWOOD COMMON COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
April 23, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Eric Ford called the meeting to order at 6:13 P.M., noting that the meeting had been advertised in compliance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

Councilman Michael Salerno led the flag salute.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Darren Matik; Councilwoman Blair Albright; Councilman Ken Kelly; Councilman Matt Levinson; Councilman Michael Salerno; Councilman Adam Walcoff; and Council President Eric Ford.

Absent: Councilman Todd Michael.

Also Present: Joseph L. Youngblood, Jr., City Solicitor; CJ Kaenzig, Engineer's Office; and Leigh Ann Napoli, City Administrator/Municipal Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES WITHOUT FORMAL READING**

Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025 Regular without formal reading. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

**ORDINANCES**

**03-2025** A BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$937,500) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$890,625) IN BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD FOR VARIOUS GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CITY OF LINWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 3 of 2025 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve Ordinance No. 3 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 3. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Michael absent. Motion was approved.

**04-2025** AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 4 of 2025 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve Ordinance No. 4 for final reading. Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on Ordinance No. 4. Seeing and hearing no members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Michael absent. Motion was approved.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**90-2025** A Resolution to read the 2025 Budget by title only

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 90 of 2025 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolution No. 90. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Michael absent. Motion was approved.

**BUDGET HEARING**

Council President Ford opened the floor for discussion on the 2025 Budget.

Charles Devine, 11 Seagarden Drive, Linwood – Mr. Devine advised that he read the budget document and asked what Council did for the projections of revenue over the next several years. He asked what sort of risk analysis was done for any loss of revenue and declining property values.

### **BUDGET HEARING (continued)**

Seeing and hearing no other members of the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor.

**88-2025** A Resolution approving an Amendment to the 2025 Municipal Budget  
The City Clerk read Resolution No. 88 of 2025 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to approve Resolution No. 88. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Michael absent. Motion was approved.

**91-2025** A Resolution adopting the 2025 Municipal Budget  
The City Clerk read Resolution No. 91 of 2025 by title only. Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Levinson, to approve Resolution No. 91. A roll call vote was heard with six in the affirmative and Councilman Michael absent. Motion was approved.

### **RESOLUTIONS WITHIN CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under item, **Consent** Agenda, are considered to be routine by City Council, and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. Any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of Funds and any item requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed separately. All Consent Agenda items will be reflected in full in the minutes.

- 89-2025** A Resolution establishing salaries for non-contractual employees of the City of Linwood for 2025
- 92-2025** A Resolution certifying the review of the Annual Audit by the Governing Body
- 93-2025** A Resolution awarding a Contract to Shore Solutions Mechanical Contracting, LLC for HVAC repairs and service for the City of Linwood
- 94-2025** A Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Raffle License, #2025-13, to Hope Exists Foundation, Inc.
- 95-2025** A Resolution approving Change Order No. 1 with Vortex Services, LLC with regard to the 2025 Sewer Lining Project, Contract No. 43
- 96-2025** A Resolution authorizing the execution of a Separation Agreement with Walter C. Jones
- 97-2025** A Resolution authorizing the City of Linwood to participate in the Atlantic County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Council President Ford asked if any member of Council would like to remove any items from consent. Resolution No. 96 of 2025 was removed. No other items were removed. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolutions No. 89, 92-95, 97 of 2025. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

The City Clerk read Resolution No. 96 of 2025 by title only. Councilman Levinson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve Resolution No. 96. All present members of Council were in favor. Motion was approved.

### **APPROVAL OF BILL LIST: \$2,346,661.51**

Councilman Walcott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Albright, to approve the bills for payment. A roll call vote was heard with four in the affirmative, two abstentions by Councilwoman Albright and Councilman Levinson, and Councilman Michael absent. Motion was approved. (The bill list is attached as Exhibit A)

### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Council President Ford opened the floor to the public for discussion on any topic.

Seeing and hearing no members from the public wishing to be heard, Council President Ford closed the floor.

### **FINAL REMARKS BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor Matik – The Mayor advised Mr. Devine that a risk analysis is done when preparing the budget. The committee looks five to ten years in the future for changing property values, increases in health care & pension costs, etc. This year, more money was put into the City's surplus account to help prepare for the future. The Mayor believes the ratables will go up. He remembers going through the budget process when the City had a \$600,000 loss in ratables. As an organization, the City plans for that. Property values are going up on the neighboring islands which the Mayor believes will increase Linwood's property values. There has also been several projects completed throughout the City that will also increase the property values. The Mayor commended and thanked Mr. Jones on his forty-four years of service to the City of Linwood. Mr. Jones will be missed by all the City employees, representatives, as well as the residents.

Councilman Walcott – Councilman Walcott thanked Mr. Jones for his years of service. Councilman Walcott only just became the Chair of the Public Works Committee this year after Councilwoman DeDomenicis was the Chair for many years. He joked that he hopes Mr. Jones isn't leaving because of him. Councilman Walcott advised that other than positions in the Public Works Department, Mr. Jones also served on the Volunteer Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and as a Police Dispatcher. Mr. Jones leaves some big shoes to fill, but has done a great job bringing Joe Olden up the ranks to do so. Councilman Walcott is happy that he will now have more time to spend with his family and again thanked him for his service.

Councilman Levinson – Councilman Levinson advised that Mr. Jones is always there to answer a phone call and is always a pleasure to see. Councilman Levinson will miss him and wished him the best in retirement. He thanked him for all he has done for the City. Councilman Levinson advised that the budget process is never easy. They always look at projections and focus on surplus so there are no issues in the future. There is not a lot of revenue in the City so they have to be smart on spending. This year there is a 4.8 cent tax increase which is the highest he has ever had. So many items were out of their control. Although the budget actually went down. City Council does try to be conservative with the best interest of the taxpayers. They will continue working on ways to save and share services.

Councilman Kelly – Councilman Kelly thanked Mr. Levine for participating in the meeting. He announced what a huge success the Easter Egg Hunt was and thanked the Park Director Colleen Kaufelds and the Recreation Board for doing such a great job. Councilman Kelly believes that Mr. Jones is a treasure to the City. He congratulated him on his retirement and congratulated his family. He asked everyone to keep the residents of Waretown in mind with the ongoing forest fire.

Councilwoman Albright – Councilwoman Albright thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their comments. Mr. Jones will certainly be missed. She appreciates his knowledge and expertise of Linwood over the years and how he knows all the nuances of every neighborhood. She knows he gave his cell phone out to the residents and joked that they will most likely still call him for things. She thanked him for his service. The City has been very fortunate.

Council President Ford – Council President Ford joked about cloning Mr. Jones. No words can truly do justice to the impact he has had on this City. Mr. Jones is and still will be an asset to Linwood. Mr. Jones was not just a forty hour a week employee as he was always there when anyone needed him. Mr. Jones will definitely be missed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be addressed by Council, Councilwoman Albright motioned, seconded by Councilman Kelly, to adjourn at 6:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Ann Napoli, RMC  
City Administrator  
Municipal Clerk